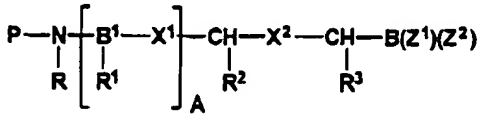
Kindly amend the following claims:

90. (amended) A compound having the formula:



(1a)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; wherein

P is R^7–C(O)– or R^7–SO_2–, where R^7 is [one of quinolinyl, quinoxalinyl, pyridyl,] pyrazinyl [, furanyl or pyrrolyl, or when P is R^7–C(O)–, R^7 can also be N-morpholinyl];

X^2 is –C(O)–NH–;

R is hydrogen or alkyl;

R^2 and R^3 are independently hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or $–CH_2–R^5$;

R^5, in each instance, is one of aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, cycloalkyl, [quinolinyl, pyridyl, indolyl,] or –W–R^6, where W is a chalcogen and R^6 is alkyl;

where the ring portion of any of said aryl, aralkyl, or alkaryl in R^2, R^3 and R^5 can be optionally substituted by one or two substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, C_{1-6} alkyl(C_{3-8})cycloalkyl, C_{2-8} alkenyl, C_{2-8} alkynyl, cyano, amino, C_{1-6} alkylamino, di(C_{1-6})alkylamino, benzylamino, dibenzylamino, nitro, carboxy, carbo(C_{1-6})alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, halogen, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{6-10} aryl, C_{6-10} aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{6-10} aryl(C_{1-6})alkoxy, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl, C_{6-10} arylthio, C_{6-10} arylsulfinyl, C_{6-10} arylsulfonyl, C_{6-10} aryl, C_{1-6} alkyl(C_{6-10})aryl, and halo(C_{6-10})aryl;

Z^1 and Z^2 are independently one of hydroxy, alkoxy, or aryloxy, or together Z^1 and Z^2 form a moiety derived from a dihydroxy compound having at least two hydroxy groups separated by at least two connecting atoms in a chain or ring, said chain or ring comprising carbon atoms, and optionally, a heteroatom or heteroatoms which can be N, S, or O; and

A is zero.

~~6.~~ 4. (amended) The compound of claim [6] ~~90~~ 1, wherein P is one of [8-quinolinecarbonyl, 8-quinolinesulfonyl, 2-quinoxalinecarbonyl, 2-quinoxalinesulfonyl,] 2-pyrazinecarbonyl, or 2-pyrazinesulfonyl[, 3-pyridinecarbonyl, 3-pyridinesulfonyl, 3-furancarbonyl, 3-furansulfonyl or N-morpholinecarbonyl].

~~17.~~ 11. (twice amended) The compound of claim ~~90~~, wherein R^2 is one of isobutyl, 1-naphthylmethyl, 2-naphthylmethyl, [3-pyridylmethyl, 2-pyridylmethyl 6-quinolinylmethyl, 3-indolylmethyl,] benzyl, 4-fluorobenzyl, 4-hydroxybenzyl, 4-(benzyloxy)benzyl, benzylnaphthylmethyl or phenethyl.

~~22.~~ 16. (twice amended) The compound of claim ~~90~~ 1, wherein:

P is one of [8-quinolinecarbonyl, 8-quinolinesulfonyl, 2-quinoxalinecarbonyl, 2-quinoxalinesulfonyl,] 2-pyrazinecarbonyl, or 2-pyrazinesulfonyl[, 3-pyridinecarbonyl, 3-pyridinesulfonyl, 3-furancarbonyl, 3-furansulfonyl or N-morpholinecarbonyl];

A is zero;

X^2 is –C(O)–NH–;

R is hydrogen or C_{1-8} alkyl;